NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 478 Washington, D. C. April 1, 1933

FIVE-DAY-WEEK BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED

The bill (S. 158) introduced by Senator Black which would prohibit interstate commerce in commodities produced or manufactured in establishments in which any person is employed or permitted to work more than five days in any week or more than six hours in any day, was favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 30th. The bill would become effective thirty days after enactment and would remain in effect two years. The text of the bill, omitting the series of prefatory clauses reciting the reasons for the proposed legislation, is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no article or commodity shall be shipped, transported, or delivered in interstate or foreign commerce, which was produced or manufactured in any mine, quarry, mill, cannery, workshop, factory, or manufacturing establishment situated in the United States, in which any person was employed or permitted to work more than five days in any week or more than six hours in any day.

SEC. 2. Any person who ships, transports, or delivers, or causes to be shipped, transported, or delivered in interstate commerce, any commodities or articles contrary to the provisions of section 1 of this Act, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $200 or by imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 3. This Act shall not become effective until thirty days after the date of its enactment, and it shall not apply to commodities or articles produced or manufactured prior to the date it becomes effective; and this Act shall remain in force for two years after the date it becomes effective.

CANNING SPINACH ACREAGE IN CALIFORNIA

According to preliminary estimates the acreage of spinach for canning in California is 8,406, as compared with preliminary estimates of 5,370 acres in 1932, and 6,775 in 1931. The harvested acreage in 1932 was 4,039 and in 1931 was 5,854 acres.

GREEN PEA AND ASPARAGUS MARKETINGS

During the week ended March 25, the movement of green peas became more active in several districts of California, with a state total of 25 cars, besides 10 from Florida and 17 from Mexico.

Movement of California asparagus reached 175 cars; 20 moved from South Carolina, 4 from Georgia and 1 from North Carolina. The total was one-third lighter than last year.

DEATH OF ROBERT J. PEACOCK

Robert J. Peacock, for many years prominent in the Maine canning industry, passed away on Wednesday, March 23. He had been identified with the Maine canning industry practically his entire life, and was likewise a leader in the civic, financial and political affairs of his state. He was formerly a member of the Board of Directors of the National Canners Association, and was a staunch supporter of every organized effort to improve the position of the canning industry. His loss will be heavily felt by the Association.

ACREAGE PLANS AND PROSPECTS FOR SWEET CORN AND SNAP BEANS

Reports on the intended acreage of corn and snap beans for canning have been issued by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, showing the preliminary plans of the canners of these products. The plans as reported are, of course, subject to change between the time the information was supplied (latter part of March) and the time of actual plantings. The figures on intended acreage are collected by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates to give the individual canner information as to the plans of the industry as a whole, so that canners may make such modifications in their plans as may seem advisable.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has also issued reports on the prospects for canned corn and canned wax and green beans, which furnish information on consumption, carryover, and prices that canners will want to take into consideration in making their acreage plans. These reports are reproduced in this issue of the Information Letter, along with the intended acreage figures, thus giving corn and bean canners the most complete information available on which to base their operations for the current season.

Intended Acreage for Snap Beans

Reports from canning firms representing more than one-half the total acreage of snap beans grown for canning or manufacture in 1932, indicate that these firms intended to contract or plant for the 1933 season an acreage approximately the same as planted in 1932. Since these reports were well distributed among all important canning areas, they should be fairly representative of the acreage which canners, as a whole, had in mind to

contract or grow at the time the inquiry was made—during the latter part of March.

Should plantings be carried out according to present indications from this group of representative canners, the total planted acreage for 1933 would amount to 30,070 acres compared with 30,140 acres planted in 1932, 58,720 acres planted in 1931, and 80,360 acres planted in 1930. Under average growing conditions, or conditions somewhat similar to those prevailing in 1932, production on 30,070 acres would probably range from 41,500 to 43,800 tons. Production during the past five years was as follows: 1932, 43,800 tons; 1931, 68,700 tons; 1930, 90,400 tons; 1929, 92,300 tons; 1928, 70,200 tons.

The accompanying table shows, by States, the acreages which would result if these late March intentions to contract and plant are carried out for 1933. These intended acreages are *not* to be considered as estimates of planted acreage for the coming season, inasmuch as they are subject to change before plantings are actually made. They are to be considered, rather, as a guide in making necessary adjustments in acreage plans before planting operations actually begin.

	1931		1932		1933 Intended Acreage	
States	Planted *Acres*	Harvested *Acres*	Planted *Acres*	Harvested *Acres*	As pct. of 1932 planted	*Acres indicated*
Maine	1,000	950	530	510	90	480
New York	7,400	7,300	4,900	4,900	115	5,640
Pennsylvania	3,200	3,200	1,900	1,900	90	1,700
Indiana	2,400	2,000	800	800	115	920
Michigan	6,300	5,500	3,000	3,000	100	3,000
Wisconsin	7,600	7,200	3,600	3,600	85	3,060
Delaware	2,550	1,550	700	700	96	670
Maryland	8,400	7,300	4,000	4,000	130	5,200
South Carolina	1,000	1,000	600	600	70	420
Tennessee	1,800	1,800	1,000	1,000	120	1,200
Mississippi	2,000	2,000	1,400	1,400	79	1,100
Arkansas	3,400	2,040	1,300	1,300	75	980
Louisiana	1,600	1,400	850	850	62	530
Colorado	1,200	1,100	900	900	80	b720
Utah	200	180	300	300	133	400
Washington	550	550	200	200	100	200
Oregon	400	400	400	400	90	360
California	650	650	240	240	100	240
Other States a	7,070	6,590	3,520	3,520	92	3,250
Total	58,720	52,710	30,140	30,120	99.8	30,070

a "Other States" include Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.
b Reports not representative.

Intended Acreage for Sweet Corn

Reports from canning firms which contracted or grew more than one-half the total acreage of sweet corn for canning in 1932, indicate that these firms intend to contract or plant for the 1933 season an acreage 5.4 per cent larger than the acreage planted in 1932. The reports received were well distributed among all important producing areas and represented a variety of conditions, including canners planning increases, those planning decreases, some planning to resume operations whose plants were idle in 1932, others apparently planning to discontinue corn canning operations for 1933. These reports should therefore be fairly representative of the

net acreage change which canners, as a whole, had in mind to make during the latter part of March, when the inquiry was made.

Should plantings be made according to these intended acreage reports, the total planted acreage would amount to 171,260 acres compared with 162,550 acres planted in 1932, 365,090 acres planted in 1931, and 410,660 acres planted in 1930. Under average growing conditions, or conditions somewhat similar to the general growing conditions of the past two years, production on the intended acreage would probably range from 370,000 to 375,000 tons. Production for each of the past five years was as follows: 1932, 373,600 tons; 1931, 781,600 tons; 1930, 659,600 tons; 1929, 704,400 tons; 1928, 592,900 tons.

The accompanying table shows, by States, the acreages which would result if these late March intentions to contract and plant are carried out for 1933. These intended acreages are *not* to be considered as estimates of planted acreage for the coming season, inasmuch as they are subject to change before plantings are actually made. They are to be considered, rather, as a guide in making necessary adjustments in acreage plans before planting operations actually begin.

State	1931 Planted	1931 Harvested	1932 Planted	1932 Harvested	1933 Intended Acreage As percent of 1932 planted	1933 Intended Acreage *Acres indicated*
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*		
Maine	10,600	10,200	8,820	8,600	104	9,170
New Hampshire	950	900	640	620	90	580
Vermont	1,340	1,280	880	750	100	880
New York	17,900	17,300	11,200	11,000	115	12,900
Pennsylvania	5,600	5,500	1,800	1,800	81	1,450
Ohio	30,600	30,300	8,800	8,800	68	6,000
Indiana	42,000	42,000	20,500	20,500	97	19,900
Illinois	71,000	70,000	35,000	35,000	120	42,000
Michigan	8,430	6,900	4,000	3,600	125	5,000
Wisconsin	13,900	12,500	2,400	2,400	125	3,000
Minnesota	48,700	48,700	31,000	31,000	83	25,700
Iowa	54,900	53,800	6,800	6,800	150	10,200
Nebraska	7,720	6,400	3,400	3,400	121	4,100
Delaware	3,400	3,400	2,000	2,000	100	b2,000
Maryland	40,200	39,800	21,000	20,500	120	25,200
Tennessee	3,000	3,000	1,400	1,400	97	1,360
Other States a	4,160	4,150	2,910	2,760	63	1,820
Total	365,090	356,730	162,550	160,930	105.4	171,260

a "Other States" include Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

b Reports not representative.

Prospects for Canned Corn in 1933

The apparent consumption of canned corn from August 1, 1932, to March 1, 1933, was 20 per cent lower than for the corresponding period last year. Should this lower level of consumption continue to the end of the 1932-33 year, the apparent consumption might be about 12,000,000 cases. Present indications are that a pack of not more than 9,000,000 cases added to the carryover would about provide for requirements, allowing for a nominal carryover. An acreage of from 160,000 to 170,000 acres, with average growing and packing conditions, would provide a pack of 9,000,000 cases, and 190,000 to 200,000 acres might be expected to produce 10,500,000 cases. In 1932, 162,000 acres were planted and less than 1 per cent was abandoned, leaving 161,000 for harvest. Abandonment is usually not large

except when growing conditions are subnormal as during the drought of 1930.

The trend of consumption of canned corn during the last few years has been down largely because of decreased consumer purchasing power. The relation between prices of canned corn and prices of competing canned vegetables during this period has played no small part in determining the amount of corn moving into consuming channels. During the early part of 1930-31 corn prices were held up to a relatively high level because of the drought scare. The decline in prices of other canned vegetables, especially tomatoes, during 1930-31 was considerably larger, and the result was a 9 per cent decline in apparent consumption of canned corn while sales of tomatoes changed very little from those of the previous year. Corn prices in 1931-32 were about 35 per cent lower than those of the previous year and apparent consumption was about 4 or 5 per cent above that of 1930-31. This temporary checking of the downward trend in consumption of canned corn was accomplished at a great expense to the corn canner. It is obvious that, in the face of decreasing consumer purchasing power and declining prices of competing canned vegetables, large supplies of canned corn cannot be moved into consuming channels except by considerable concession in price.

The experience of the last two years has brought to light one outstanding fact, that prices of canned corn are affected in no small degree by the size of the stocks carried over from the previous season. Of course, there are other factors affecting prices, a discussion of which appeared in the report on canned vegetable prices issued by this Bureau in January, 1933. Heavy stocks and carryovers have been characteristic since the fall of 1931 and prices of canned corn have declined more than the prices of other canned vegetables. Prices of canned corn may be expected to continue relatively lower than prices of other canned vegetables until stocks and carryovers of canned corn are brought in line with stocks and carryovers of competing canned vegetables.

Prices of canned corn from September to December held fairly steady at the low level at which the 1931-32 season closed. A break in prices during December was followed by further declines resulting in an average price during March that was 48 per cent below the average of March, 1931. During this same period the prices of competing canned vegetables declined only 9 per cent.

It is worthy of note that the movement of canned corn out of canners' hands, as reported by the Corn Canners' Institute, during September, October, November and December was about 40 per cent less than the movement for the corresponding period in 1931-32. During January, however, the decline was only 14 per cent and during February the movement was only 13 per cent under that of February, 1932. Thus it appears that the recent sharp decline in corn prices stimulated sales considerably.

Should the present level of prices continue, the sales of canned corn during the remainder of the current season may hold up relatively better compared with the corresponding period in 1931-32 than did sales during the first half of the current year. Under these conditions the carryover as of September 1, 1933, might be around 4,000,000 cases, or a reduction of about 2,000,000 cases compared with the carryover of a year earlier. It seems probable that a carryover of that size together with a pack of 9,000,000 cases would be adequate to supply consumption needs for 1933-34 and leave a carryover at the end of the year which might be in line with the carryovers of competing canned vegetables.

Prospects for Canned Snap Beans in 1933

A 1933 pack of snap beans (green and wax) about the size of the 1932 pack will probably hold supplies fairly close to consumption requirements. About 30,000 acres or about the same as the 1932 harvested acreage will under average growing and packing conditions provide a pack of 4,000,000 cases; 40,000 acres would produce about 4,800,000 cases.

The average price at which 4,000,000 cases of canned snap beans can be sold during the 1933-34 season will depend more upon factors outside the industry than upon the size of the snap bean pack. The factors affecting snap bean prices have been found to be (1) changes in consumer purchasing power, (2) changes in prices of competing canned vegetables, (3) production of snap beans for the fresh market, and (4) the size of the pack of snap beans.

The consumption of snap beans depends to a considerable extent upon the relation of canned snap bean prices to consumer purchasing power, to prices of competing canned vegetables, and to prices of snap beans in the fresh market. Consequently any forecast of apparent consumption for 1933-34 involves the forecasting of consumer purchasing power and prices of these competing commodities. At present there are very few data available for making these forecasts.

Consumer purchasing power as measured by the Federal Reserve Board's index of employment for February was about the same as for August, 1932. During the corresponding period in 1931-32 the index declined from 74 to 68.

The upward trend in production of snap beans for the fresh market that has been in progress during the last 12 years appears to be continuing. No information is available at this time concerning the plantings of beans for the 1933 fall market. The size of the spring crop, however, is indicated by the March 15 report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of this Bureau as follows: "The crop for harvest in the spring will be larger than that harvested last year * * * there will be about 15,000 acres of spring beans this year compared with 13,500 acres harvested last year."

Owing to the fact that the changes in the consumption and prices of snap beans tend to follow the changes in both the canned and fresh vegetable markets it is difficult to forecast the size of the 1933 pack required to adjust production to demand. It is, however, advisable that the industry maintain its supply in line with the relatively low level of supplies of other canned vegetables. A pack of not more than 4,000,000 cases in 1933, when added to the carryover as of August 1, 1933, would probably keep supplies of snap beans in line with the supplies of competing vegetables.

During the first half of the current season the movement of canned snap beans out of canners' hands has been about 20 per cent under that of the corresponding period last season. The smaller sales this year have, however, represented a larger percentage of the available supplies than the last year's sales. Should movement into consuming channels for the remainder of the 1932-33 season continue at this reduced rate it seems likely that the carryover would be considerably smaller than that at the end of the 1931-32 season.

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY

Exports of canned foods were generally smaller in February than in the corresponding month of 1932, increases being re-

ported in only four items—canned asparagus, salmon, miscellaneous berries, and grapefruit, the last named showing quite a marked increase. The monthly statistics as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	February, 1932		February, 1933	
	Pounds	*Value*	*Pounds*	*Value*
Canned meats, total	1,731,878	$344,417	962,561	$181,709
Beef	118,036	31,973	113,556	25,399
Pork	1,376,815	267,347	749,424	135,814
Sausage	91,234	18,534	56,060	12,576
Other	145,793	26,563	43,521	7,920
Canned vegetables, total	1,547,376	138,044	1,304,654	110,033
Asparagus	363,546	56,353	497,478	58,194
Baked beans, and pork and beans	396,910	19,860	266,472	10,654
Corn	154,355	8,877	90,753	6,649
Peas	205,499	16,082	151,703	12,294
Soups	110,097	13,324	74,868	7,481
Tomatoes	137,330	7,853	100,274	5,292
Other	179,639	15,695	123,106	9,469
Condensed milk	1,404,122	244,964	526,176	66,369
Evaporated milk	4,063,903	310,367	2,629,227	156,171
Canned fruits, total	18,399,968	1,239,197	12,868,471	795,602
Apples and applesauce	1,496,130	69,880	737,874	26,167
Apricots	1,091,934	77,154	389,160	24,734
Loganberries	286,910	17,945	186,086	12,067
Other berries	9,284	1,433	14,261	1,353
Cherries	42,761	5,077	36,615	3,840
Fruits for salad	1,490,344	166,006	1,139,089	114,984
Grapefruit	969,363	52,320	4,851,401	267,510
Peaches	4,031,629	261,974	2,108,992	120,710
Pears	7,550,951	479,416	2,323,080	141,773
Pineapple	1,312,414	97,339	1,002,189	76,760
Prunes	36,278	2,898	25,666	1,981
Other	81,970	7,755	54,058	3,723
Salmon	458,914	63,501	516,943	45,826
Sardines	3,035,406	181,070	2,732,985	156,547

TOMATO PRODUCTS IMPORTS

Imports of canned tomatoes in February were more than 7,000,000 pounds below those of February last year. Receipts from Italy fell off 3,449,611 pounds, while imports from Canada were only 320 pounds as compared with 3,685,650 pounds in February, 1932. The total imports in February were as follows:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
1932	*Pounds*	*Value*	*Pounds*	*Value*
January	10,461,256	$307,270	977,691	$60,177
February	11,743,475	341,551	652,718	41,161
Total	22,204,731	648,821	1,630,409	101,338
1933				
January	5,418,548	182,127	1,066,923	69,199
February	4,508,534	157,558	506,878	30,913
Total	9,927,082	339,685	1,573,801	100,112

SHRIMP PACK TO MARCH 15

The pack of shrimp from March 1 to 15, as announced by the Shrimp Section of the Association, was 10,514 cases, as com-

pared with 30,476 cases in the corresponding period last year. The pack from August 1 to March 15, by states, for the last two years follows:

State	Aug. 1, 1931, through Mar. 15, 1932	Aug. 1, 1932, through Mar. 15, 1933
	Cases	*Cases*
Georgia	50,700	74,547
Florida	21,450	7,686
South Carolina	8,250	105
Alabama	36,652	52,241
Mississippi	246,626	108,866
Louisiana	276,596	247,102
Texas	42,053	45,401
Total	688,387	535,948

The net decrease of the period, August 1, 1932-March 15, 1933, under the same period last year, was 152,439 cases, or 22 per cent.

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF CANNED MILK

	1933	1932	Change
Manufacturers' stocks (case goods) March 1:	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Per cent*
Evaporated (34 firms)	101,085,120	116,858,805	—13.50
Condensed (8 firms)	7,830,741	7,487,102	+ 4.86
Total production, February:			
Evaporated (34 firms)	104,655,354	100,517,340	+ 4.12
Condensed (7 firms)	4,359,435	5,965,425	—26.92

FOREIGN CRAB MEAT PACK

The pack of Japanese, Korean and Russian crabmeat for the six years ended with 1932, as reported by the American trade commissioner at Tokyo, has been as follows, in standard cases of 48 1-pound cans:

	Japanese	Korean	Russian
	Cases	*Cases*	*Cases*
1927	514,382	1,854	16,795
1928	405,087	7,502	46,011
1929	522,751	28,239	90,586
1930	571,702	50,451	110,225
1931	411,222	18,000	90,300
1932	297,293	10,000	77,393

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